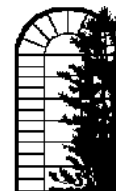


# The Museum Insider



Volume 2, Issue 4

Newsletter of the Friends of Michigan History

Winter 2002

## Winter Wonder

at the  
**Michigan Historical  
Museum System**

**Michigan Historical Museum**  
*Lansing*

*Currently running*

### **Houdini: A Magician Among the Spirits.**

See a fresh interpretation of Houdini, the renowned escape artist who died on Halloween 1926 in Detroit. Through January 26, 2003.

*December 28*

**Magic at the Museum.** Sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History. Enjoy this new magic show performed by members of the Lansing Magicians Guild. Admission: \$5.00. 2:00 P.M.

*January 11, 2003*

**Magic at the Museum.** Kids and adults learn from the magic masters as members of the Lansing Magicians Guild teach them simple tricks to amaze friends and family! Tickets are \$5.00, available at the Museum Store. Sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History. 2:00 P.M.

*January 26*

**Celebrate Michigan Statehood.** It's the 166th anniversary of Michigan entering the Union. Enjoy a special focus on music, crafts and other activities from the 1830s. 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

*February 4*

**Docent Training.** Increase your knowledge of Michigan history and share it with others by training to become a volunteer docent. 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.

*March 15*

**Boogie for Your Badge.** Junior Girl Scouts can dance the day away and earn their Dance Badge. Learn the basics of tap, swing, ballroom, African and square dancing! Fee (\$20/scout, \$10/adult) includes lunch, snacks and badge. Pre-registration required. 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

*Continued on page 2*

## Statehood Day

**offers taste of the 1830s**



*Cheryl Natzmer of the Michigan Historical Museum education department shows how to make a cornhusk doll, one of the traditional crafts highlighted during Statehood Day at the museum.*

**W**hat was life like when Michigan joined the Union in 1837?

You can get a real taste for that era's activities, crafts, discussions—and food! —as the Michigan Historical Museum in downtown Lansing presents “Celebrate Michigan Statehood.” The event, sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History, takes place on Sunday, January 26, 2003—the 166th anniversary of Michigan statehood.

“This is a great opportunity, especially for first-time visitors, to stroll through the museum galleries and experience life in Michigan's frontier days,” says Tami Averill, curator of education at the Michigan Historical Museum.

The museum's second-floor galleries will be a-buzz with activity. Visitors can watch crafters create quilts, cornhusk dolls and other handwork typical of the 1830s. Land surveying was in great demand during Michigan's settlement period, so visitors also will encounter demonstrations of how early surveyors did their work. The music of the Ole Michigan Roughwater String Band will fill the air as the popular group teaches visitors contra dancing.

In the rotunda, the State Archives of Michigan will provide a special exhibit of

Michigan's archival treasures dating from territorial and early statehood times. Surrounded by the 1835 Michigan Constitution and letters from President Andrew Jackson, museum staff in period costume will read excerpts from these and other historical documents.

As always, Statehood Day takes a closer look at the Toledo War, but this year offers something new. “We've gone across the border for speakers and artifacts,” Averill says with a smile. “We can be

magnanimous—after all, we lost Toledo but gained the western U.P.”

Fred Folger, Toledo historian and teacher, offers a lighthearted perspective from both sides of the Michigan-Ohio border on the war where nary a shot was fired. Look for his lively presentation, “The Toledo War Revisited and Its Long-Reaching Effects,” at 2:00 P.M. and 3:30 P.M. in the Forum Auditorium.

If you really like to sink your teeth into history, don't miss a special brunch at the

museum from 10:00 A.M. to noon. The sumptuous frontier-style brunch—a fund-raiser for the Michigan Historical Museum's education programs—will feature foods popular during Michigan's statehood era. Special musical entertainment and a silent auction will add to the unique festivities before the museum's regular hours. Menu, price and other details will be available soon on the museum's web site: [www.michiganhistory.org](http://www.michiganhistory.org) just click on “Calendar of Events” and follow the January link.

### **Celebrate Michigan Statehood**

**Sunday, January 26, 2003**  
**Michigan Historical Museum,**  
**702 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing**

One-day only exhibit: a military hat  
and a sword used by Ohioans in the  
Toledo War.

The first 100 families will receive a  
free miniature State of Michigan flag.

Continued from page 1

### Walker Tavern Cambridge Junction

December 16-17

**Build a Sled.** Sylvester Walker, the historical owner of Walker Tavern, invites young and old to help him make a sled and ready the farm for winter. 10:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

December 18-20

**Peaceable Kingdoms.** Make a 19th-century toy. 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

### Hartwick Pines Grayling

January 11

**Build Bearpaw Snowshoes.** Learn how snowshoes are built, assemble shoes by lacing the pre-made frame and learn about the use and history of the snowshoe in North America. Fee: \$120. Pre-registration required. 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

January 25

**Build Cross Country Driftbuster Snowshoes.** Learn how snowshoes are built, assemble shoes by lacing the pre-made frame and learn about the use and history of the snowshoe in North America. Fee: \$120. Pre-registration required. 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

## Lindbergh on radar screen



*Charles A. Lindbergh became a 20th-century icon after his solo flight across the Atlantic in 1927. An exhibit about the Detroit-born aviator comes to the Michigan Historical Museum in March 2004.*

The calendar reads December 2002 but the Michigan Historical Museum is already looking ahead to March 2004. That's when *Lindbergh*, a traveling exhibit from the Missouri Historical Society, flies in for a three-month run in the museum's special exhibits gallery.

The exhibit tells the story of aviator Charles A. Lindbergh, who gained worldwide adulation for his solo, non-stop flight across the Atlantic in 1927.

"There is a great deal of pre-planning required for special exhibits, regardless of whether they are developed in-house or brought in from another institution," says Maria Quinlan Leiby, curator of exhibits for the Michigan Historical Museum. "We are already pondering layout, security and other issues to bring in *Lindbergh*."

Lindbergh, born in Detroit in 1902, received thousands of letters and gifts as a result of the transatlantic flight.

Literally hundreds of these artifacts, and others related to his private life and public accomplishments, are on view for the first time

in decades. Among them are Lindbergh's flight suit, his Congressional Medal of Honor and a loving cup autographed by movie stars of the 1920s.

Other, more established aviators had failed in their attempts to cross the Atlantic. No small measure of Lindbergh's success came from the plane he helped design, *Spirit of St. Louis*. The Lindbergh exhibit features an interactive cross-section replica of the cockpit interior and gives visitors an understanding of the flight's challenges.

Now that *Lindbergh's* flight plan to Lansing has been confirmed, watch *The Museum Insider* for more details as they become available.



## Holiday Shopping Reminder



**A**s a member of the Friends of Michigan History, you receive a 10 percent discount on purchases at the Michigan Historical Museum Store—a great place to find unique gifts for the holidays!

Present your Friends membership card and receive your discount on ornaments, books, Native American jewelry and much more. The Museum Store is open seven days a week for your convenience:

Monday - Friday 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Saturday 10:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

**Shop today!** For more information, telephone (517) 373-1375.

## Exhibit Sponsorships Available

"Charles Lindbergh was seen as a great American hero," says Phillip C. Kwiatkowski, director of the Michigan Historical Museum System. "We are looking forward to bringing his story to Lansing."

"But the reality," he continues, "is that exhibits of this caliber cost tens of thousands of dollars." That's a daunting price tag against the backdrop of state budget cuts.

To ensure the continued quality of exhibits, the Michigan Historical Museum is initiating an exhibit sponsorship program. This is an opportunity for community partners—businesses and individuals—to make specific audiences aware of their interest in and support of Michigan heritage. For information on upcoming sponsorship opportunities, telephone (517) 373-0523.

## Welcome to Our New Friends

Patricia Aslin  
Donna Bussell  
Rebecca Case  
Eugene Coy  
Mary Meade Fuger  
Jeff Gaydos  
Dennis Paradee  
Miller O. Perry  
Jim Petrie  
Tom Ungrodt  
Jon Walton  
Mary Jane Wilson

## Thank you to Our Renewing Friends

Lorie and Chuck Barbieri  
Ann Marie Bentley  
Allen and Elaine Cable  
Al Harrison  
David J. Johnson  
David Machtel, Jr.  
Mary L. Ploor  
Tom Shiels  
Jennifer Such  
Janet M. Tiedt

## From the Friends President

**T**hank you, Friends members, for sponsoring and hosting another successful Veterans Day event at the Michigan Historical Museum. Our annual veterans tribute has grown into one of the state's notable Veterans Day events. It is a rewarding gathering where the community not only honors veterans for their service, but hears first-hand accounts of their military experiences.

This year's program coincided with the 30th anniversary of the departure of the last U.S. ground combat troops from South Vietnam. In recognition of this anniversary, our vets tribute placed a special focus on the men and women who served during the Vietnam War.

We were proud to present a panel of five Vietnam-era veterans to open the historical discussion. Included on the panel was Major General E. Gordon Sump, Adjutant General and director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The former F-102 fighter pilot flew 241 combat missions in Vietnam and Thailand between 1967 and 1969.

The Veterans Day tribute always gives us a sense of satisfaction as another year draws to a close. You can be proud of the financial and program support that the Friends of Michigan History gives to the Michigan Historical Museum. Encourage your friends to become Friends and consider giving a Friends membership as a holiday gift.

Best to you and yours in the new year!

— Francis R. "Bus" Spaniola

1959 - 1975



VIETNAM  
VETERAN



Respect  
And  
Gratitude

Then, Now,  
And  
Forever  
FRIENDS OF  
MICHIGAN  
HISTORY

## Join the Friends!

If your heritage is important to you, join the Friends of Michigan History today. With your membership, the Friends support the Michigan Historical Center in protecting, preserving and interpreting the state's past.

Your membership benefits include:

- A 10 percent discount at the Michigan Historical Museum Store
- Special invitations to exhibit openings
- *The Museum Insider* newsletter
- A one-year subscription to *Michigan History* magazine
- Discounts on museum classes and workshops
- Nationwide discounts through the Time Traveler program
- Tax benefits when you itemize your IRS tax return

For more information,  
telephone (517) 373-1668.

**Yes,** I want to do my part to preserve Michigan's rich heritage.

Please reserve my membership in the Friends of Michigan History.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime telephone (      ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership level (check one):

☐ Student \$25    ☐ Family \$35    ☐ Contributing \$60    ☐ Sponsoring \$100

### Payment method (check one):

Check enclosed, payable to Friends of Michigan History

VISA    MasterCard    Discover

Cardholder's name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Complete this form, clip and mail to:

Friends of Michigan History, P.O. Box 70038, Lansing, MI 48907-0038



**Friends of Michigan History**  
**P.O. Box 70038**  
**Lansing, MI 48907**

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of the Michigan Historical Museum.

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## Not yet a Friend?

It's a great time to join!

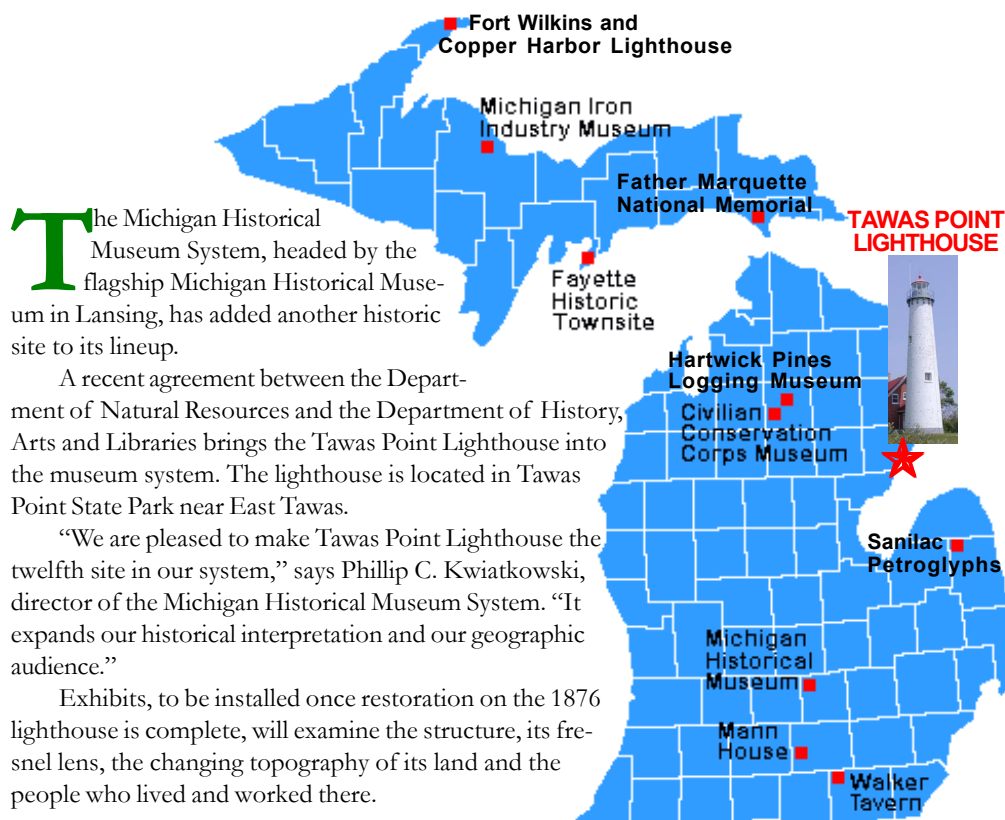
The clock is ticking as we hurtle toward 2003. If you're still looking for ways to make filing your 2002 taxes a little less painful, now is the right time to join the Friends.

The Friends of Michigan History is a 501(c)(3) organization. That means that, if you join by December 31, 2002, you can include the cost of your Friends membership (minus the value of goods received) when you itemize deductions on your 2002 federal tax return.

Enjoy the best of all possible worlds. Your membership will help support the programs of the Michigan Historical Museum while helping your own financial picture—not to mention that you will meet other folks who share your passion and concern for preserving Michigan history.

To join, complete the membership form on page 3 of this newsletter or call (517) 373-1668 for more details.

## MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM SYSTEM EXPANDS



**T**he Michigan Historical Museum System, headed by the flagship Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing, has added another historic site to its lineup.

A recent agreement between the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of History, Arts and Libraries brings the Tawas Point Lighthouse into the museum system. The lighthouse is located in Tawas Point State Park near East Tawas.

"We are pleased to make Tawas Point Lighthouse the twelfth site in our system," says Phillip C. Kwiatkowski, director of the Michigan Historical Museum System. "It expands our historical interpretation and our geographic audience."

Exhibits, to be installed once restoration on the 1876 lighthouse is complete, will examine the structure, its fresnel lens, the changing topography of its land and the people who lived and worked there.